

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, GW

SUBJECT: ARREST OF POLISH DIPLOMAT IN GERMANY

1. THE EVENING TELEVISION NEWS ON NOVEMBER 18 AND THE POLISH CENTRAL PRESS ON NOVEMBER 19 CARRIED A BRIEF PAP ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH IN STUDIED TERMS DESCRIBED THE "ILLE-GAL" ARREST BY FRG AUTHORITIES OF HENRYK WROBLEWICZ, A POLISH DIPLOMAT WHO WAS SAID TO BE ON AN OFFICAL VISIT TO PRL EMBASSIES IN THE FRG, AUSTRIA, AND FRANCE. ALTHOUGH HOLDING A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT WITH A DIPLOMATIC VISA ISSUED BY THE FRG EMBASSY IN WARSAW, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, WROBLEWICZ WAS SEIZED WHILE VISITING THE FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMP AT DACHAU, WHERE HE HAD BEEN AN INMATE DURING THE WAR. PAP REPORTED THAT PRL AUTHORITIES VIEW THE ACTION AS A "VIOLATION OF BASIC NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW". PAP NOTED THAT FRG AUTHORITIES HAVE DENIED ACCESS TO WROBLEWICZ BY POLISH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES AND CONCLUDED THAT THIS CONDUCT AROUSES THE DISMAY AND CONCERN OF POLISH PUBLIC OPINION.

2. THE BBC, WHICH BROADCAST THE STORY, ON NOVEMBER 19, FOLLOWED UP THE NEXT MORING WITH A REPORT THAT TWO POLES, NOT DIPLOMATS, HAD BEEN ARRESTED TWO WEEKS AGO, ALLEGEDLY CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR ESPIONAGE AGAINST RFE. BBC MENTIONED NO NAMES IN EI-

THER REPORT, BUT SUGGESTED A POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN THESE ARRESTS AND THE WROBLEWICZ STORY WHICH BROKE ONLY THE DAY BEFORE.

3. POLISH MFA OFFICIALS AND A JOURNALIST FAMILIAR WITH GERMAN AFFAIRS IN CONVERSATION DURINA A RECEPTION AT THE CHARGE'S RESIDENCE ON NOVMEBER 19 EXPRESSED THEIR AMAZEMENT AND GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE INCIDENT. WHILE NOT ADMITTING ANY WRONGDOING ON THE POLISH SIDE, THEY WONDERED WHY WROBLEWICZ HAD NOT SIMPLY BEEN EXPELLED. A VICE DIRECTOR OF THE CONSULAR DEPARTMENT VOICED INDIGNATION OVER DENIAL OF ACCESS, AND OTHERS LIKENED FRG CONDUCT TO "COLD WARS" ATTITUDES. SINCE THE ARREST OCCURRED IN BAVARIA, ALL WERE INCLINED TO SUSPECT THE WORK OF CSU LEADER STRAUSS OR HIS FOLLOWERS, EVEN THOUGH THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT FEDERAL GERMAN AUTHORITIES HAD ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY.

4. COMMENT: THE POLES HAVE BEEN HOLDING THEIR BREATH AS THE DEBATE OVER RATIFICATION OF THE RECENT FRG-POLISH AGREEMENTS UNFOLDS IN GERMANY. THE POLISH PRESS SEEMS TO BE HANDLING THIS INCIDENT GINGERLY, WITH FULL AWARENESS THAT THE AFFAIR COULD COMPLICATE THE DELICATE SITUATIONS SURROUNDING RATIFICATION.DAVIS

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